

## Short Notes.

### Antiquity of Malacca.

In my Notes on Malay History in No. 53 of this Journal I said that Malacca is not mentioned in any known authority prior to the early years of the 15th century, with the possible exception of the old Chinese charts therein discussed. I find however in Colonel Gerini's recent monograph on Ptolemy's Geography of Eastern Asia, pp. 531-2 that the "Palatine Law" of Siam entitled "Kot Monthieraban," enacted in A. D. 1360 by the king who founded Ayuthia ten years earlier, mentions *Malaka* as one of the southern States then tributary to Siam, or claimed by him as such, at any rate. This is an important piece of evidence in support of the view that Malacca existed before the time of the fall of Singapore, which all the available evidence puts somewhere after A. D. 1377. But of course one would like to be sure that this Siamese law-code has not been "sub-edited" and revised since that date. It is however quite possible that Malacca was founded earlier than is traditionally stated, but only rose to importance after the fall of Singapore.

As for other names mentioned in the same context, they are *Ujong Tanah*, *Malayu* and *Worawari*. The first offers no difficulty. It is geographically explained by its name. As for the second, it is difficult to believe that *Malayu* was ever the name of a state in the Malay Peninsula. It is not distinctive enough. It might mean Malayland anywhere. In the *Nagarakrêtagama* it distinctly means Sumatra. Probably the Siamese had no very definite information on the subject and did not realise that it could not be a state-name. Likely enough in this context it merely implies a claim over the Peninsula as a whole. The last name, *Worawari*, is a puzzle that no one has yet solved. Colonel Gerini offers various

suggestions about it, one of them being that it stands for Muar, which seems hardly probable. Perhaps local knowledge may throw some new light upon it: the name may still exist in some modified form somewhere in the Peninsula.

C. O. Blagden.

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### Hermanus Neubronner Van Der Tuuk.

The venerable Professor Kern in an interview which I had with him at Utrecht last spring informed me that it had recently been discovered that H. N. van der Tuuk, the founder of Malayan comparative philology, was born in Malacca. His father was a high Dutch official and his mother a member of the well-known Neubronner family of that ancient Dutch settlement. He was educated in Holland and devoted himself to the study of the languages of Netherlands India. But in virtue of his birth at Malacca we are entitled in some measure to claim him as one of our local worthies and to share with our Dutch friends and neighbours in honouring the memory of one of most distinguished men born in the Malay Peninsula,

C. O. Blagden.

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### Descriptions of two Species of Dragon Flies (Odonata) from Sarawak.

By F. F. Laidlaw.

Sub. family. *Chlorogomphinae*.

Genus. *Orogomphus*.

Median labial lobe divided. Females without ovipositor. Eyes almost touching at a point on the top of the head. Triangle of hind-wing nearly equilateral. Abdomen longer than hind-wing